THE EYE:

BY OBADIAH OPTIC.

——VARIOUS OBJECTS FROM THE SENSE,
VARIOUSLY REPRESENTING. MILTON.

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ORIGINAL.

THE EYE-LASH.—No. VI.

TO THE EYE-LASH.

WHAT a fuss they make, said I, relieving myself of a large quid of tobacco which had lain an hour in my mouth; what a fuss these ladies make, if a man soil his teeth with a little tobacco—they eat snuff under the pretence of cleaning their grinders—and can't endure a gentleman who uses the plant in its perfect state—pshaw, said I, laying my hand on the roll for a fresh bite—it won't do to forego all pleasures to please the ladies—who cares for their whims, I grumbled out, putting in two inches of pig-tail—they may scold, and I'll squeeze the wit-inspiring quid; they may frown, and I'll express the beautifully coloured juice, whose flavour is superior to the choicest nectar—rot them—if a man eat tobacco, he dares not kiss them—and yet they'll run to the tobacconist's shop for snuff and fill their mouths with what was made for their noses, and there's no harm in all that, because it whitens their pretty little biters. No, a man can do nothing now for the girls—they turn up their noses at the disgusting creature—oh dear—if by accident he should have a hole in his stocking, however small—what a sloven he would be! what a bustle for a month! and yet they claim the privilege of showing their shoulders with impunity—and unsheathing their elbows, to the terror of civilly disposed persons—what a noise they make if a gentleman's barber have left a little tuft on his chin—and yet some of their silken crops require reaping for a year before they use the tweezers.—Well, how strange

it is that the ladies have such influence over our sex—we rush into every folly, that we may please a favourite belle—'tis the height of gallanty to flatter some, and there are some who have sense enough to prefer rational discourse.

If a lady sing, or play on the piano forte, the moment the beau comes, Miss will you favour us with a tune? this is artful, because he knows a belle delights in nothing more than displaying her skill in music—for my part, I can't see any great accomplishment in music, nor do I adore a lady for her talents in that science—a tune now and then may prove a recreation; but in a large company, one bawls out for some doleful march, which may not suit another, and there the poor discontented fellow sits moping over her thread-bare sholder, and is absolutely obliged to protest he was never better entertained. A lady learns music, and her whole soul is absorbed in the pursuit; she sacrifices the more useful knowledge of literature, that she may be able to show her white hands and slender fingers, prancing over the flats and sharps. This does well enough till after marriage; then the music is hushed, the cares of a family prevent her from continually playing, and the instrument is altogether neglected. Thus is half her life passed in acquiring a science, which, when in its maturity, is a matter of no consequence.

The vocal powers are cultivated with far less expence and trouble, and there are few so insensible to the charms of a lady's voice, as not to listen with rapture to the enchanting sounds; she is able at all times and places to soothe the melancholy cares of life, and if the dear creatures were not so often afflicted with "*bad colds*," an inexhaustible source of delight would reward their humble servants, the beaux.

Just so with dancing; money is squandered and time wasted, that they may know how to turn their toes at the sound of a fiddle, and learn to run through a crowd without bumping heads; dancing does not teach them to move their limbs gracefully, observation will do that much better: In many of the favourite novels, we read of the heroines dancing to perfection at the first attempt, and yet our ladies must have eight or ten quarters' schooling—and does a lady pay attention to the graceful movement? no; her aim is to do a particular step; she learns it, and the task is finished.

After marriage, a lady seldom dances; then it seems too childish an amusement: Thus are two years or more, passed in obtaining what is useless just when it is obtained—pish!

said I, throwing away my second quid, and taking a third—why can't the ladies pass their youthful years in such pursuits as will accompany them through life, and prove a balm to the diseases of declining age. It's a strange thing, said I, squeezing the fresh quid, that all these follies are praised, and such a tumult raised against tobacco. Oh! how nauseous his breath is! said a little girl four feet high, when a professed tobacco chewer came into the room—I wonder how the men can eat that poison! Why Miss, said I, did you ever taste tobacco? No, I would not taste it for the world—indeed! you don't like it? Just then I found she had been eating some *old Dutch cheese*; without replying, I rose under some pretext, and flew to my friendly quid for relief. So it is, said I, they must have white teeth—and the beautiful yellow which adorns the teeth of a tobacco chewer is despised: Let them rail on, I'll stick to the quid—it's a friend when I am in distress; it's my companion in solitude—when hungry it's my food—when thirsty it's my drink—it's every thing to me—just when I was about thinking of an eulogy for this plant, one of the fraternity stepped in—I handed him a chew—"good tobacco,—yes, excellent—who manufactured it?"—"JACOB BENNINGHOVE."

GRUMBLER.

ORIGINAL.

THE EXPATIATOR.—No. VII.

He that will not apply new remedies, must expect new evils; for time is the greatest innovator; and if time of course alter things to the worse, and wisdom and council shall not alter them to the better, what shall be the end? BACON.

IN the morning of life, every spring of our nature is in motion; our exertions are active, our plans enterprising, and our expectations strengthened by the importance we attach to our own conceptions—hence flows much good; and whilst thus engaged, our enjoyments are heightened by the satisfaction we receive reflecting that we are not idlers in the great work-shop of the community; and although our judgments are immature, and our experience derived rather than acquired, yet we are not always willing to submit the merits of our productions to the decision of established rules; hence we frequently find mistakes arise, which give birth to opposition; this, in the abstract, may be considered injurious, yet do we often find it productive of beneficial consequences; it

sometimes has a tendency to invigorate our powers and cause exertion to grasp at objects which, if in the event be established in theory, and reduced to useful practice, fully compensate the industrious researcher.

But it too often happens, that the mind actuated by a laudable desire of emulation, is diverted from the line it marked out, by the discouraging obstacles thrown in the way by those, who, having passed the meridian of their usefulness, are jealous, lest their successors should eclipse their fame, by obtaining that knowledge, which, by reason of some unknown cause, was beyond their reach. Prejudice also is a most powerful auxiliary to aid the designs of such, and the cry of '*innovation*' is sufficient to stigmatize the adventurer as a proper subject of neglect or derision.

Were the general good the actuating principle of all our pursuits, were a desire of progressing towards perfection the spring of all our public exertions, and were we not liable to be swayed by the little honours we acquire to ourselves, then should we view, not only with pleasure, the attempts of our fellow-beings at improvement, but aid, with at least the expression of our approbation, every such effort.

But our opinions are too often the reigning tyrants which hold dominion over us, and as they dictate, so we are prone to disapprove or condemn whatever does not exactly coincide with our own ideas of the nature of things.

Those who are young have much to learn, and wherever a disposition is discovered to improve on former theories, or establish new ones, we ought rather to cherish than discourage it; and it would be well for those who have been active in their day, to look back and consider—do they not now hold dear something which they could not obtain from the stock received by them from their predecessors? and will they not allow their followers the like privilege which themselves have enjoyed, and by which they have acquired celebrity? Surely it is but reasonable: Neither is a passive acquiescence sufficient—their own usefulness may be extended by the support they give to others; fostered by the hand of judgment, genius reflects honour on its patron, and as the latter rises to fame, the former is viewed with veneration.

The aspiring youth should also ever listen to the voice of reason, and not reject admonition when enforced by candour and truth. To regulate his career by the advantages which are within his power, will be the means of preventing his

commission of errors, the detection and exposition of which might have a tendency to check the ardour of his mind.

The result of every important enquiry deserves attention, to reject it would discover a determination to condemn every thing that did not tend to our own advancement.

Improvement is of so progressive a nature, that in every age there is sufficient room for genius to display itself; those who have preceded, are justly celebrated for the discoveries they have made; whilst those who are yet engaged, are constantly acquiring honours of which envy shall never be able to rob them: Thus, rivalship need not be feared, for those who may hereafter act, will yet find an unexhausted mine from which they may bring forth acquisitions to science and establish their credit as industrious and useful members of society.

To act therefore in unison, is the most sure way of producing general benefit: Divested of every motive foreign from the great object, the sage would be communicative, the practitioner docile, and an ample field laid open for future exertion. O.

ORIGINAL.

ON THE LEARNED PROFESSIONS.

Qui fit Mæcenas, ut nemo, quam sibi sortem
Seu ratio dederit, seu fors objecerit, illa
Contentus vivat: laudet diversa sequentes? — HOR.

THERE is perhaps no observation more trite, than that our neighbours enjoy more happiness than ourselves: Yet it is certain that happiness may be enjoyed in nearly an equal degree by persons in every situation in life.

The former opinion is founded in error, and arises from too high estimation on our part, of the possessions of others. Whereas the latter is supported by reason, and originates in a belief that happiness is, in a great measure, of a relative nature, and is seated in the imagination.

That this is true, is amply proved by the influence of education in moulding our ideas of happiness. So great indeed is its agency on our actions, that it is often unobserved even where it acts most forcibly.

Thus, in associating the idea of happiness with that of a fine coach, or stately building, we seldom reflect that it arises from our having been taught that these are objects worthy of

possession. A love of money is evinced by children long before they can form an estimate of its real value. This arises, no doubt, from the influence of example, and consequently comes under the head of education. But, not content as it were, with the baneful effect of *example*, as in this instance, parents, in too many cases, present a barrier to the future happiness of their offspring, by inculcating *precepts* equally productive of discontent. To illustrate this more fully, let us view a case directly in point. A child so circumstanced as to convince any person of but moderate discernment, that its destiny in life is fixed within a certain sphere, is nevertheless taught that true happiness is only to be found among the gay and opulent. Their wealth enables them to appear in all the splendour that extravagance can devise, and thus enjoy a celestial life on earth. Happy condition! how enviable the state of him who enjoys so great blessings! The sources of pleasure to the man of fortune are inexhaustible: His gold enables him to enjoy not only the company, but the friendship of all the great folks in town. He appears together with his distinguished family at concerts, balls and assemblies; and when he makes his appearance in the theatre, or at any other place of fahionable amusement, his fortune and high standing in society, secure to him at once the most advantageous and most conspicuous seat. Who can form a higher conception of the condition of the man of fortune, though he is least likely ever to arrive at the same standing in society? By thus indulging the fancy, and not adverting to the proportion of pain which accompanies pleasure wherever it is found, are often, not only the heads of families rendered miserable, but also by means of precept and example, a numerous offspring. Their happiness becomes thereby impaired, constant chagrin and discontent supercede that tranquility of mind that would arise from a different train of reflection. Dazzled by the condition of their superiors, men are too often tempted to follow their example as far as their circumstances will admit. Thus is society often deprived of the utility of individuals, who, in their respective situations, and by occupations adapted to their capacities, might enjoy a comfortable sustenance and decent respectability.

Neighbour G****, is an honest mechanic, whose attempts at greatness have so often been baffled, that he has thought it prudent to return to the practice of his useful trade. He has now attained the age of three-score years, and accumulated

half the sum of money that would have arisen from the regular exercise of his business from the time he left his apprenticeship. The good old citizen did not enjoy happiness until he deserted his mad attempt at aping *the great folks*; he has never become convinced of the futility of seeking happiness in a way for which he was not calculated—principally, as he imagined, for want of a sufficiency of wealth.

He has three sons; and the money which he possesses would enable him to furnish them with the implements of any three useful trades. But the desire of the father for the future happiness of his sons, is however inordinate; and as he found his *means* insufficient to act "*the gentleman at large*," he is determined to put *Tom*, *Dick* and *Harry* in a way of arriving at greatness without depending upon so precarious a thing as money. He has resolved that they shall devote themselves to the three professions, which are called *the learned*—The *learned professions!*—aye, *learned*, a name which has been revered time out of mind. Happy concurrence of circumstances—three learned professions; one for each son, and one forsooth, to be a doctor in each. Happy progeny, where will their greatness end!

The day is with pleasure anticipated by the good old man, when one of his sons shall be honoured with a seat "among the lawyers in the court-house;" another with a seat in the college of physicians, and the third with a station in the pulpit. —But stay, have we not carried our project too far? Neither of the lads can do more in the way of education than write their own names decently, and are all but moderate arithmeticians. Adverting however to the opportunities they have had, it must be acknowledged, that they by no means evinced a want of genius. For the whole mass of education they possess, was acquired in the term of three months, the longest cessation they have ever had from heel-taping and soaling shoes.

It has been said by many, and is admitted by all learned men, that very few persons have ever acquired respectability in the liberal professions, without a knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages. But there are a great many lawyers, a great many physicians, and abundance of clergymen, who are ignorant of classical learning. It is true, they are held in more or less contempt, by every one who knows how necessary this kind of learning is to men of the learned professions. But the old man's sons must at all events become

professional characters; no matter what rank they may hold. Moreover, all *great men*, do not conceive, or at least *affect* not to conceive a knowledge of *the languages* necessary to youths intended for the respectable and important professions of law, physic and divinity. Some men who rank among the first of the age for literary and scientific acquirements, have proposed the abolition of the study of the Latin and Greek languages from schools and colleges. If these eminent gentlemen are correct in their opinion with regard to this subject, who will dare to doubt the qualifications of our youngsters for the profession to which they are respectively to devote themselves? For gentlemen of their professions, generally write so badly, that it has become proverbial; in arithmetic, our luminaries will find themselves sufficiently expert to count their fees and salaries.

Defended in their ignorance of *the languages*, by those who have proposed to abolish the study of them, they need not expose their stupidity, by attempting to vindicate themselves. Should they be accused of ignorance in classical learning, they need only refer their assailant to those who have written upon the subject.

There are indeed, some other branches of learning taught, that are considered preparatory to the study of the professions upon which these young men are about to enter. These are mathematics, natural and moral philosophy, logic, rhetoric, civil and natural history, and chemistry. But all these, although they make a formidable list, must be dispensed with, as *Harry*, who is the youngest of the lads, is above eighteen. The intended *doctors* are too far advanced in years to enter upon the study of these preparatory branches. It is now high time that they should commence their career in studies for which their capacities are so well calculated. For these professions they have long been intended, and study them they will, as well to please their good old father, as to gratify their own vanity.

These three sons of the muses, must now be disposed of under proper preceptors. These must be men of eminence in their respective professions, that additional honours may be conferred on the pupils.

The *amor pecuniæ* is so deeply seated in man, in a civilized state, that a good fee will supercede any inquiry that *ought* to be made concerning the applicant's acquirements. There will therefore be little or no difficulty in obtaining a birth for

Tom, with any one of the gentlemen of the bar. *Dick* may readily be accommodated with a pupilage under some popular professor of medicine: That these hopeful youths may all be *judiciously* disposed of, it yet remains for *Harry* to get a situation with bishop ******, or the reverend ****, D. D. *Harry* may probably find somewhat more difficulty in procuring a situation than his brothers—by submitting to a little formality, however, and calling several times at stated hours, he will eventually be accommodated. To say any thing of the influence of fees in procuring *Harry's* pupilage would be *indecorous*.

THISTLE.

PARLIAMENTARY WIT.

MR. SHERIDAN, in one of his replies in the House of Commons, remarked on the Lord Advocate's speech, that it proved the strength of his memory, and the brilliancy of his wit—but added, that he had that day used his faculties in rather a perverse way, for he had called in his memory to the aid of his wit, and employed his fancy in the production of his facts. In his jokes, added he, we admire the accuracy of his recollection, and when he states his facts, he astonishes us with the flights of his imagination.

THE RETURN OF A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

A DAY or two after General Burgoyne's return from America, a large party being at dinner, the conversation turned on the propriety or impropriety of the General taking his seat in parliament, previous to a court of enquiry, "Psha! psha?" said a gentleman present, "he has *a right* to a seat in the House of Commons independent of his Borough of Preston." "How do you make that out?" said another present.—"*Because he's return'd by America.*"

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*An Evening Ramble*," by LORENZO, is received; such communications as his shall always promptly find a place: Poetry is the language of the heart when raised to rapture, but still, a correct judgment and fine taste will keep its sallies in due bounds; correctness of figure, elegance in diction, and appropriate expressions, are some of the characteristics of good verse, in them we do not find LORENZO deficient, and by the structure of his verse and strength of mind evidently discovered, we think the hand of a master is easily seen.

Telemachus' communication having been mislaid, another copy is requested.

Poetical Department.

ORIGINAL.

TO ELIZA'S JUNO.

O, JUNO, Juno, what a change!
Once was elysium thy seat;
Now round the carpet dost thou range,
And sport about ELIZA's feet.

How wert thou once beloved by Jove,
Nay, thou did'st often sway the god;
And now thou court'st ELIZA's love,
And comest and goest at her nod.

Strange, strange indeed, 'tis very strange!
Yet what is life but "ups and downs?"
How many now our city range
Unheeded, who disposed of crowns!

Nay, I saw Cæsar, but last night,
Basely before a school-boy fly!
And e'en now Brutus, wond'rous sight!
Humble and meek in chains went by!

Yet Juno, bless'd thy destiny,
Nor canst thou call the change mishap;
Lovely ELIZA smiles on thee,
Thou may'st repose in beauty's lap.

Thus art thou still a deity,
Elysium still to thee is giv'n,
Or, if thy couch no heaven be,
Our puny world contains no heav'n. GLORMON.

ORIGINAL.

THE FATHER.

FAREWELL, farewell! my cruel son,
Sole prop of my declining age;
Why leave me hoary, blind, alone,
And dare the dreadful ocean's rage!

Alas! to guard my feeble frame,
Disgust, instead of pleasure gave;

He left me in despair and shame,
To sink unpitied to the grave.

Short time the bird with mother care,
Protects her little unfledged young;
They grow—then spring aloft in air,
Divide, and are forever gone.

So I my child did fondly rear,
These arms the smiling infant bore;
He left me soon, and O! I fear,
He left me to return no more.

How pleasant on my son to lean,
And tell of battles I had won,
To feel his arms, altho' unseen,
And O! to think he was my son!

Kind Providence! protect him still;
I love him, tho' ungrateful he;
And if to scourge him be thy will,
O! let it not be done for me.

When weary of the cruel main,
Or sick of far more cruel men,
O! send him to my arms again,
Perhaps he'll love and prize me then.

THE STRANGER.

ORIGINAL.

ADDRESS TO A ROSE.

FRESH, blooming, sweetly blushing rose,
Perfuming each mild breeze that blows;
Now dripping with aurorean dews,
How sweet you blossom!
O! that my EMILY was thee,
I'd pluck thee from that thorny tree,
And place thee, blushing sweet on me,
Within my bosom.

How could I pluck thee! thought unblest,
Could I behold her I love best,
Whilst fading, dying, on my breast
Her sweetness yield?

Ah, no! sweet rose, thy lovely form,
From ev'ry danger, ev'ry harm,
From rushing rain and ruthless storm,
With care I'd shield.

When scorch'd by noonday's with'ring glare,
Sweet rose! sweet EMILY! with care
I'd water thee with many a tear,
From my sad eyes;
And when the chilling night came on,
And Sol his cheering beams withdrawn,
My lips should warm thee till the dawn,
With breathing sighs.

No reptile should thy beauties nip,
The bee delighted ne'er should sip
The honey nectar of thy lip,
So dear to me;
And when unfeeling death would come,
O! I would weep thy hapless doom,
And my sad bosom, beauteous bloom,
Thy grave should be. THE STRANGER.

ORIGINAL.

A CHARADE.

IN open view I stand confess'd,
Descriptive of a man unbless'd;
And grumble for displeasure;
Two syllables I own, and they
Are both alike, form'd to convey
My views in even measure.

I've other qualities, beside
Those above mention'd, 'tis my pride,
What man to beast will change
Twice to announce; you'll find it plain,
If you will trace me back again,
And true as it is strange.

Reverse my first and last, and each will tell
What sots desire and love, alas! too well:
My whole for hope and fear admittance find,
And is expressive of a peevish mind. E.

☞ *An answer is requested.*